MARVEL COMICS
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DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
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brak scan

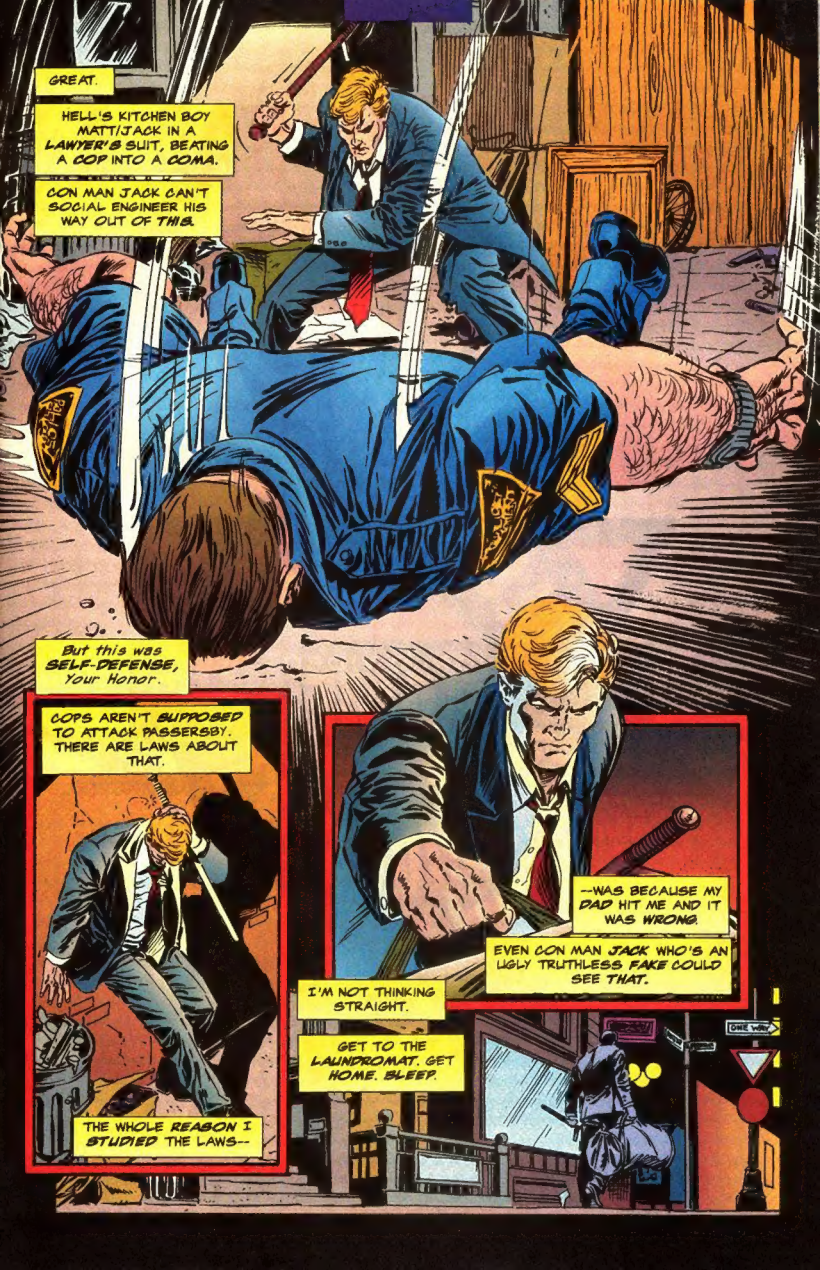
YOU MOUTHIN' OFF TO ME? HUH? YOU MOUTHIN' OFF TO ME?
HEKK
GAHH
YEAH? YOU GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY?
I'LL BE SURPRISED IF I DON'T KILL SOMEBODY ELSE TONIGHT.
EEYAAAH!

MATT MURDOCK, JACK BATLIN.
MYSELF AND SOMEBODY ELSE.
THAT INANE, CON MAN GRIN: THAT CORNBALL VOICE, OOZING OUT THE WORDS "SOCIAL ENGINEER" LIKE I MEANT IT.
AND THAT COSTUME.
BULLETPROOF. INFLEXIBLE, ITCHY.
WITH ARMOR RESEMBLING VENETIAN BLINDS.
A FAKE IDENTITY. A FAKE DAREDEVIL.
WHAT WAS I THINKING OF?
"The case for the prosecution rests, Your Honor."
"Counselor Murdock? Would you like to begin your recross-examination of the witness?"

THAT'S THIS SUIT TALKING.
THE SKIN OF A LAWYER, THE SKIN I SLOUGHED OFF WHEN MY OLD DUAL LIFE WAS ENDANGERED.
THE ONLY CLEAN CLOTHES LEFT IN THE PLACE.
NORMALLY, I PUT THE COSTUME ON UNDER MY CLOTHES, BUT...
NO.
IT FEELS WRONG.
BAD ENOUGH I'M WEARING THE SUIT, BUT MY OTHER CLOTHES ARE READY TO STAND UP AND WALK TO THE LAUNDROMAT ON THEIR OWN.
STILL, IT HAD TO BE DONE, DIDN'T IT?
IT HAD TO BE DONE.

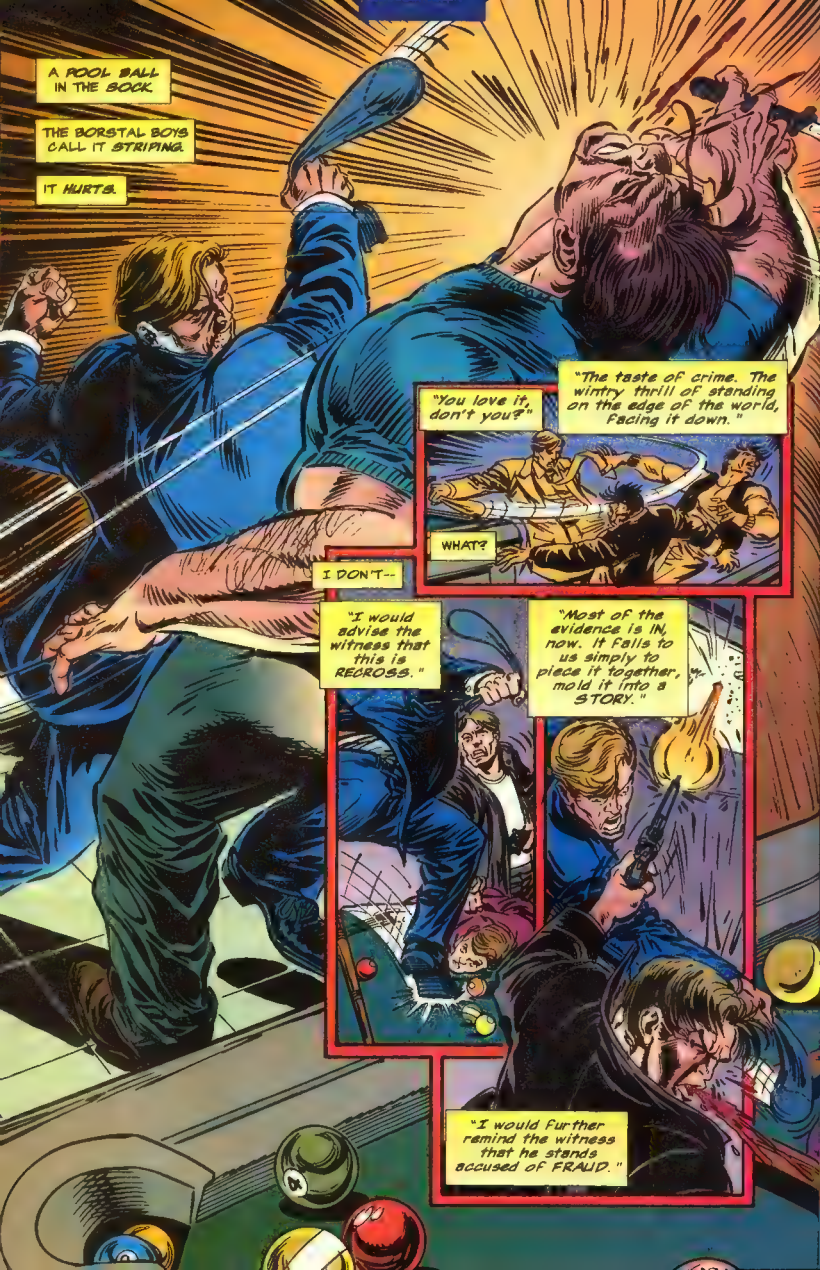
YOU MOUTHIN' OFF TO ME? HAH?
WHY AM I ON THE GROUND?
STANDARD ISSUE NEW YORK COP, COUPLE HUNDRED POUNDS OVERWEIGHT, DONUT CHOLESTEROL ROCKDRUM HEATBEAT--
--BUT MY HEAD'S GONE SLOW AND I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT HERE--
HAH? YOU GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY?
THE WIND DESCRIBES HIS SHAPE FOR MY ENHANCED SENSES, THE ONES NUCLEAR WASTE SWAPPED FOR MY SIGHT--

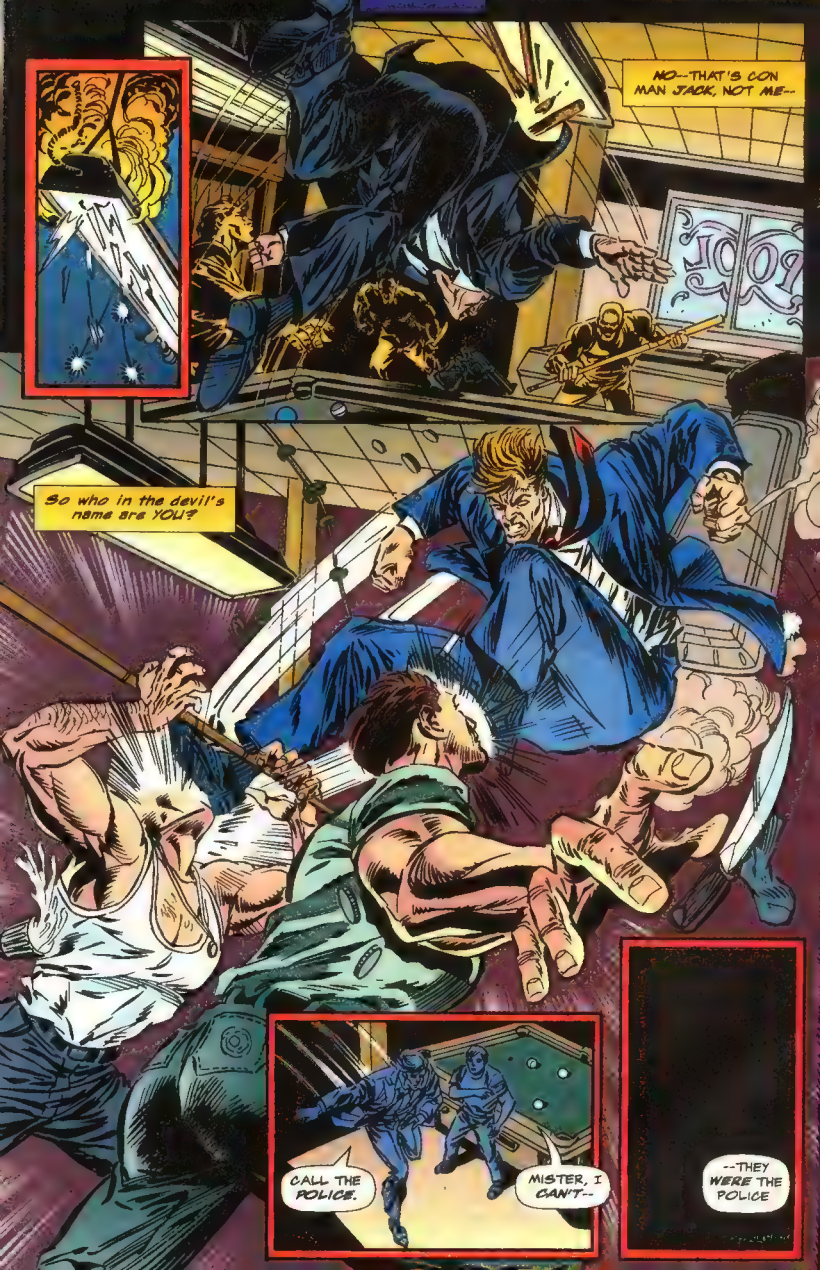
THAT'S MY BLOOD ON HIS NIGHTSTICK.
SPEAK UP--
--I CAN'T HEAR YOU--
CHECK HIS BREATHING.
HE'S GONE MAD.
READ THE LOW MOISTURE ON HIS DRY EYES, WIDE OPEN FOR TOO LONG.
HE MUST'VE HIT ME BUT I DON'T REMEMBER IT.
THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK. OR PASS OUT. OR BOTH.
FINISH THIS QUICK AND THINK ABOUT IT LATER.

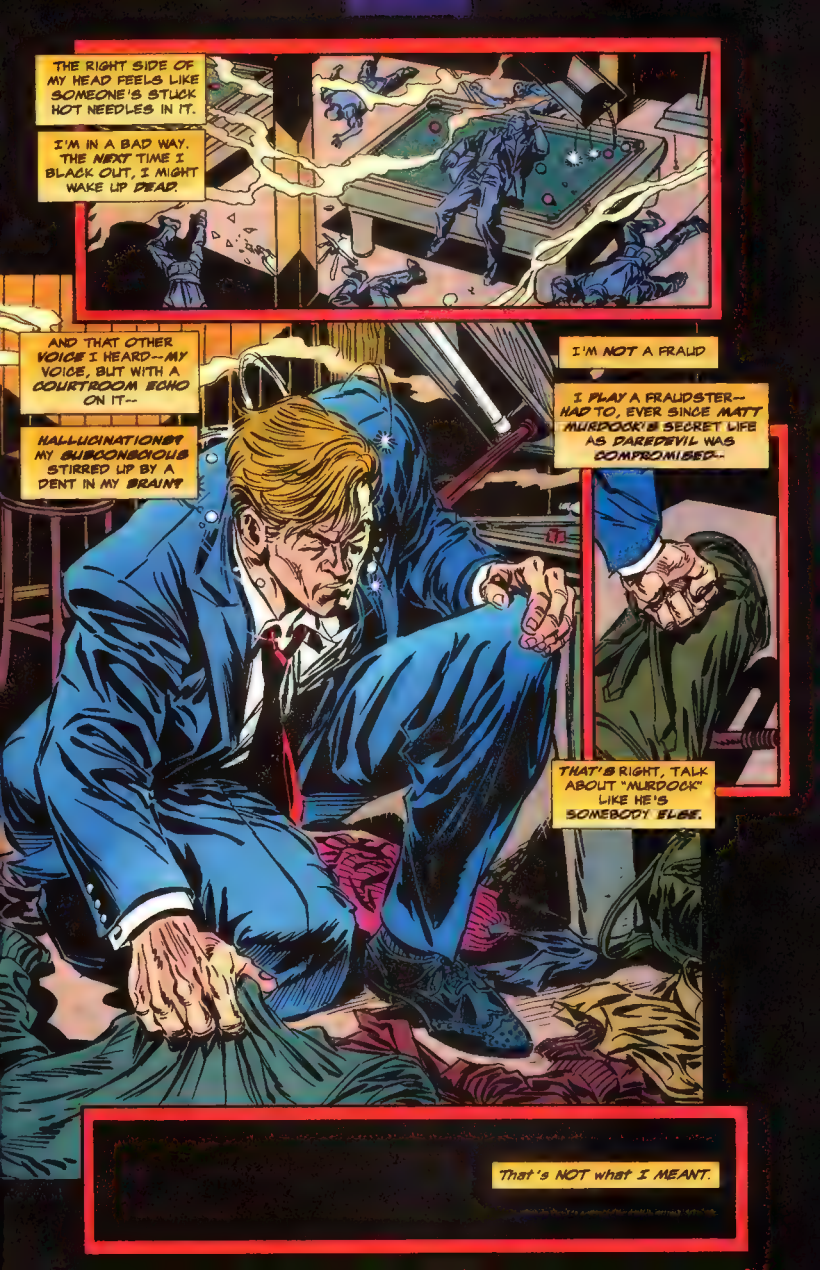

GREAT.
HELL'S KITCHEN BOY MATT/JACK IN A LAWYER'S SUIT, BEATING A COP INTO A COMA.
CON MAN JACK CAN'T SOCIAL ENGINEER HIS WAY OUT OF THIS.
But this was SELF-DEFENSE, Your Honor.
COPS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO ATTACK PASSERSBY. THERE ARE LAWS ABOUT THAT.
THE WHOLE REASON I STUDIED THE LAWS--
--WAS BECAUSE MY DAD HIT ME AND IT WAS WRONG.
EVEN CON MAN JACK WHO'S AN UGLY TRUTHLESS FAKE COULD SEE THAT.
I'M NOT THINKING STRAIGHT.
GET TO THE LAUNDROMAT. GET HOME. SLEEP.
ONE WAY

I'M SITTING DOWN AGAIN.
I WANNA KILL HIS BUTT.
I WANNA KILL HIS BUTT AN' I WANNA KILL IT NOW.
DENT, DENT-- LEMME LOCK OFF THE DOORS 'FORE YOU GO GETTIN' TARANTINO ON US HERE.
THE HIT I TOOK FROM THE COP--MUST'VE CONCUSSED ME OR SOMETHING, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT HERE--
I CAN FEEL A TOOTH IN THE BACK THERE SEE-SAWING IN MY GUM.
WHY AM I IN A POOL HALL?
NO NIGHTSTICK. IMPROVISE.
WHY DO THEY WANT TO KILL ME?

MOVE.
HEY! HEY!
HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU A CHASE, DENT!
CHASE ME, CHASE ME? HAAAHAHAHA!
THERE HE GOES, ARMED ONLY WITH A SOCK--
HAAAHAHAHAH!
IMPROVISE.
MISTER MISTER!
HELP ME! THEY WANNA GET MY DAD!
WHEN I WAS A LAWYER, I DID A STUDY ON BRITISH BORSTALS--HOMES FOR VIOLENT YOUNG OFFENDERS.
WEAPONLESS, WHEN THE NEED TO BREAK PEOPLE CAME UPON THEM, THEY IMPROVISED.


A POOL BALL IN THE SOCK.
THE BORSTAL BOYS CALL IT STRIPING.
IT HURTS.
"You love it, don't you?"
"The taste of crime. The wintry thrill of standing on the edge of the world, facing it down."
WHAT?
I DON'T--
"I would advise the witness that this is RECROSS."
"Most of the evidence is IN, now. It falls to us simply to piece it together, mold it into a STORY."
"I would further remind the witness that he stands accused of FRAUD."

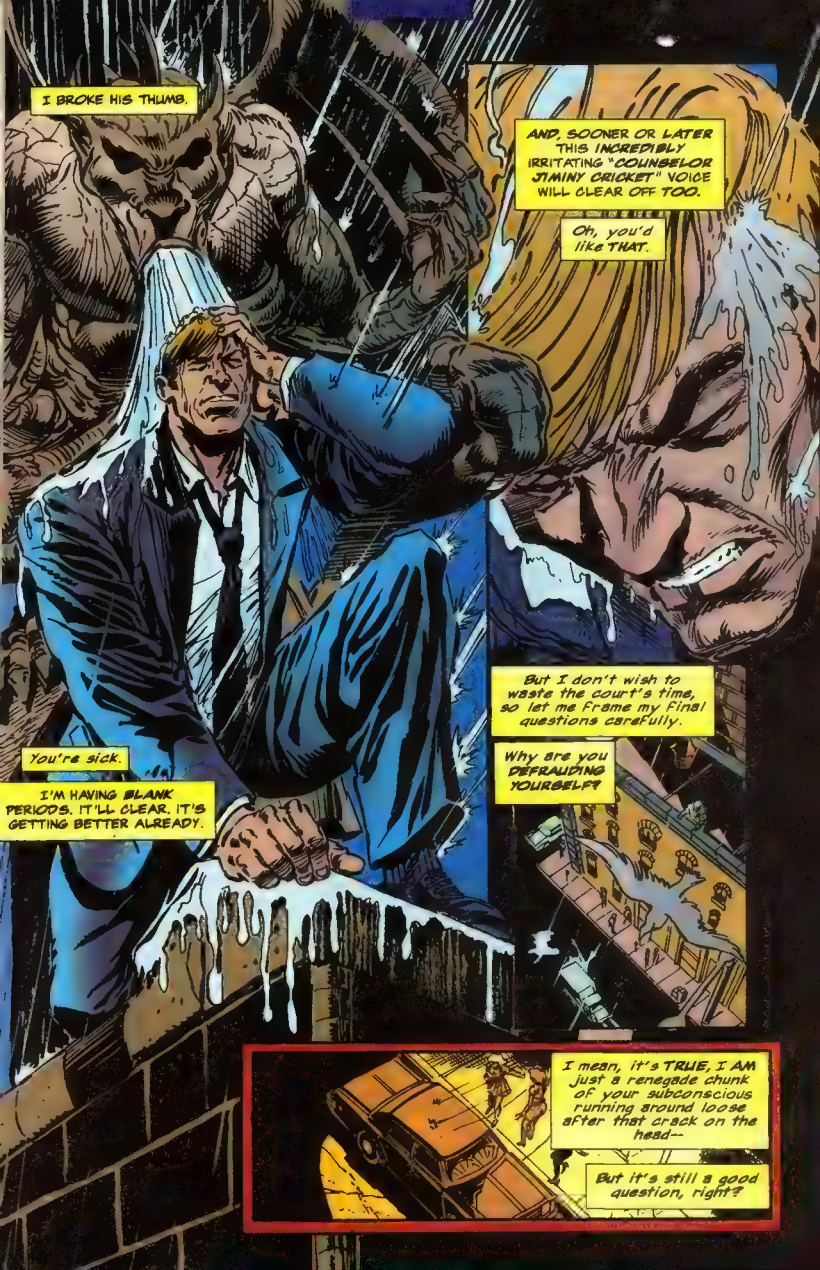

NO--THAT'S CON MAN JACK, NOT ME--
So who in the devil's name are YOU?
CALL THE POLICE.
MISTER, I CAN'T--
--THEY WERE THE POLICE


THE RIGHT SIDE OF MY HEAD FEELS LIKE SOMEONE'S STUCK HOT NEEDLES IN IT.
I'M IN A BAD WAY. THE NEXT TIME I BLACK OUT, I MIGHT WAKE UP DEAD.
AND THAT OTHER VOICE I HEARD--MY VOICE, BUT WITH A COURTROOM ECHO ON IT--
HALLUCINATIONS? MY SUBCONSCIOUS STIRRED UP BY A DENT IN MY BRAIN?
I'M NOT A FRAUD
I PLAY A FRAUDSTER--HAD TO, EVER SINCE MATT MURDOCK'S SECRET LIFE AS DAREDEVIL WAS COMPROMISED--
THAT'S RIGHT, TALK ABOUT "MURDOCK" LIKE HE'S SOMEBODY ELSE.
That's NOT what I MEANT.

ICY RAINWATER SPLASHING UP MY PANTS LEG SHOCKS ME INTO FULL LUCIDITY.
THIS TIME, I RETAIN THE SKETCH OF MEMORY.
THE BURGLAR.
A SECOND-STORY MAN, PANICKED, THROTTLING THE TARGET APARTMENT'S OCCUPANT WITH HIS CLIMBING ROPES.
HE GOT A TASTE FOR IT, AFTER THAT.
THERE'S A COP ON THE GROUND WITH A PITON IN HIS HEAD.
I SHOULD LET THE LAW CAPTURE AND DEAL WITH HIM.

BUT THE LAW'S JUST AN *IDEAL*, ENFORCED BY *PEOPLE*, AND PEOPLE ARE *FLAWED*.
THE LAW IS A STRONG HAND, HELPING THE WEAK AND THE HOPELESS--
--BUT IT'S ALSO A MADMAN IN CITY BLUE, BEATING A STRANGER TO DEATH IN A TERRIBLE ALLEYWAY.
IT'S MY FATHER, SHOT TO DEATH JUST YARDS FROM HIS VICTORIOUS BOXING RING.
IT'S THE MEN WHO STOLE THE BREATH FROM HIM, WALKING AWAY, JUST *WALKING* AWAY.
SOMETIMES--
SOMETIMES, THE LAW MUST BE *BROKEN*, AND BEATEN, AND TOLD TO JUST *SHUT UP*--
WHAT? OH GOD, I'M GONNA *DIE*--

--IN ORDER TO OBTAIN JUSTICE.
OH MAN PLEASE NO I DON'T WANNA DIE YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN I PROMISE--
CRAACK


I BROKE HIS THUMB.
AND, SOONER OR LATER THIS INCREDIBLY IRRITATING "COUNSELOR JIMINY CRICKET" VOICE WILL CLEAR OFF TOO.
Oh, you'd like THAT.
But I don't wish to waste the court's time, so let me frame my final questions carefully.
Why are you DEFRAUDING YOURSELF?
You're sick.
I'M HAVING BLANK PERIODS. IT'LL CLEAR. IT'S GETTING BETTER ALREADY.
I mean, it's TRUE, I AM just a renegade chunk of your subconscious running around loose after that crack on the head--
But it's still a good question, right?

What kind of "Daredevil" are you in your armor?
RATES
HOOK
3.00
DAY
RATE
Whose law, or even JUSTICE, are you serving when you play the con man?
When you deny all the Forces that defined you?
SHUT UP.
THE SHOUT OF EXPLOSIVES--CORDITE STINK ON A THERMAL UPDRAFT--
EVEN A BLIND MAN CAN TELL THAT SOME PSYCHOPATH HAS JUST SHOT DOWN THREE WORKING GIRLS FOR NO GOOD REASON.

HE'S SINGING HYMNS.
AS I WAS SAYING
You are tied to this place, this CITY, this PART of the city--
Why pretend that all OF that stuff was your business, your STRENGTH--
--When we both know you walk the other side of the street?
--where the crime ISN'T wrapped in Armani suits, OR gaudy spandex, and it follows no rules and it makes no sense--

--it's where you were BORN, and that New York late night alleyway switch-blade madness is in your BLOOD.
I've got the evidence of your WHOLE LIFE here, Murdock.
The whole point of your life was to become better than you were, and to drag the city up WITH you.
So you served the LAW and FOUGHT for JUSTICE.
Now? Playacting a CON MAN, the lowest form of life next to pimps and crack dealers.
In a bulletproof costume that makes you look like a FETISHIST RIOT COP.
I would direct the witness to answer the pending questions.

Matt? The question is pending.
Matt?
Matt, if you ignore me, I'll have you sent down for contempt of court, so help me...
I'll be BACK...this is just an ADJOURNMENT, do you hear me?... this recross is NOT FINISHED...
IT'S MY LIFE!
AND I'LL DO WHAT I LIKE!

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DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

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Letters for publication must include your name and address, although we will withhold that information upon request.

MARIE JAVINS
EDITOR

POLLY WATSON
PENGUIN B

BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear Redlines,

Re: Issue 340

Okay, now I'm really excited! Are you satisfied? Issue #340 has continued what has been started over the past six months, getting Daredevil back to his roots. He is once again pushing low-life scumbags around and fighting crime in the seediest sections of *his* city. It's great to see Daredevil getting away from these team-ups with other high-profile Marvel heroes. Not that I'm complaining about that, because it was fun to see DD associating with Iron Fist, Gambit and Captain America. But Daredevil has always been best when flying solo, and Alan Smithee has definitely shown why a loner like Daredevil continues to be one of the most interesting players in all of the Marvel Universe.

This issue in particular blew me away with its art and story line. Alexander Jubran's pencils, along with John Kalisz's colors, were perfect for setting the stage for this dark piece of scripting. I couldn't believe that Mr. Smithee had the guts to kill off Glorianna O'Breen. I'm truly sorry to see her go, but it definitely gives DD the motivation to put a major hurtin' on one Victor Kruel. Hopefully, he can put a stop to this madman's vendetta before another person close to him dies.

It's also exciting to see the Kingpin back in action. Though, I must warn you that I am a little worried about the plans you have for Mr. Fatso. The "Last Rites" story line, where Fisk was finally toppled, is one of the greatest DD series of all time, and I'd hate to see ol' hornhead's work all undone. I really hope that he is able to stop the Kingpin from attaining the power he once had. Wilson Fisk was a great arch enemy, but his time as a chief villain in this book should be over. I'm sure there are brand- new and devious super-criminals that Daredevil can face.

I must also agree with what John Balhoff wrote in his letter. The new costume is pretty cool, but nothing inspired fear in the hearts of New York City bad guys like the classic red PJ's.He never neede body armor for protection because it was what made him unique as a super hero. The danger was always there that a bullet would take him out, but Murdock always persevered and won in the end.

I have two requests. First, it would be great to see Bullseye in this book again. The score hasn't been settled yet between those two. Secondly, I know I put my two cents in about Daredevil teaming up with other super heroes, but a Spider-Man appearance would be worth it! Maybe after Spidey gets done with all this clone business, he can stop by for a little action in *this* book.

Paul Foti
(Address withheld by request)

Just what do you mean by "a little action," Paul? What kind of guy do you think Spider-Man is, anyway?

As for a terrifying new super-villain, be sure to pick up issue #345, but be careful not to strain your back—it's gonna be really heavy!

Dear Marvel,

Marvel, you're the best. My favorite comics are DAREDEVIL, SPIDER-MAN, and WEB OF SPIDER-MAN.

I love what you've done with DAREDEVIL. It was great what you did with the suit. I thought the old one was getting really cheesy! I love the fact that you killed off Matt Murdockand came up with Jack Batlin. I love the way he can supposedly see now, and that he's like a con artist. You should make a team-up between Daredevil and Gambit like in "Tree of Knowledge".

I have some questions to ask you.

1. How do you feel about competing with Image and other companies?

2. Did you kill off Matt Murdock because nobody was buying?

Don Wynne
1427 Barton Dr.
Fort Washington, PA 19034

1. Well, Don, we haven't actually played any other comic company's softball team, but we *have* trampled on the likes of Putnam Publishing and ChemicalWeek, if that's any indication of our athletic prowess. Does that answer your question?

2. Au contraire, mon frere! We "killed" him for the sheer thrill of it! Isn't that what the kids are into these days?

Dear Devil's Advocate,

I just want to start off by saying that Daredevil is my favorite super hero of all time. This is my first letter to comics, so I thought that it should go to my favorite. I have just read somewhere that you have let go of Dan Chichester. What on earth for?

Now to the matter at hand. I've just read #340, and just want to say that the little dream sequence when Glorianna was falling was beautifully executed. I thought for a split second she was going to be saved, but that would've been a stupid story.

So who is Daredevil's new lover going to be? It seems everyone in the Marvel Universe gets hitched up except ol' hornhead. So how about answering some more questions? I'll start with number three for obvious reasons.

3. Will Scott McDaniel return to Daredevil? I hope so—he is responsible for my favorite cover of all time: #332. Wow!

4. I read that J.M. DeMatteis is going to be the new writer. Is this true?

5. Will there be an Ultraverse crossover for DD ? I hope so. I read all the Ultraverse titles, and would like to point out that a Night Man/Daredevil crossover would be totally outrageous.

Scott Witzel
7406 Camelback Circle
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

Thanks for writing, Scott! We'll happily answer your questions—starting with number three, for obvious reasons.

3. Don't look for Scott to return to these pages anytime soon—he's a mighty busy man! Look instead for the immensely talented and awfully excitable (no, he's not a chihuahua) Ron Wagner to be the regular penciler on this book. We promise you won't be disappointed!

4. Yes. If you don't believe us, check out issue #344.

5. A DD/Ultraverse crossover is about as likely as Warren Ellis cracking a wide grin. But who knows—stranger things have happened!

NEXT ISSUE:
J.M. DeMatteis, Ron Wagner and Bill Reinhold forcibly take the throttle of this runaway train, with "Max" Scheele and Bill Oakley stoking the engine! Nick Fury guest stars in "Old Soldiers," coming to a comic shop near you in just thirty days!